



Donald Bowers Inspiration Award Process

The Donald Bowers Inspiration Award recognizes individuals who instill the values of *FIRST* within their team and community. Since 1995 Donald has served *FIRST* in our region, initially facilitating the development of regionals and later serving as Regional Director within our community. Donald had an unmistakable presence at *FIRST* events - one that welcomed each and every student, encouraging them to pursue their passions with humility and compassion. His legacy to inspire students is embedded deep within the roots of *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic.

Each team attending a *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic District Event may submit one individual for consideration at each district event who has impacted and inspired their team. The candidate may be a mentor, volunteer, parent, or sponsor. The 500 word (maximum) essays will be collected at pit admin. The deadline for submission is the start of opening ceremonies. The recipient will be selected by an honored guest at each event, and will be presented alongside the Outstanding Volunteer Award prior to alliance selection.

1.0 – Scope

This document defines operational details in support of the Donald Bowers Inspiration Award. The objective of this document is to define detailed rules that frame the award and the actions required by MAR leadership to operationalize the implementation of the award.

2.0 – Award Rules

- a. The Donald Bowers Inspiration Award is bestowed on an individual who has inspired or had a significant impact on a *FIRST* team within the *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic region. The candidate may be a mentor, volunteer, parent, or sponsor.
- b. One award will be given at each *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic District Event during the competition season. The Donald Bowers Inspiration Award will not be given at the *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic District Championship Event.
- c. Individuals are nominated for this award by *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic teams. Teams from outside the Mid-Atlantic district are not eligible to submit a nomination for consideration.
- d. A DBI award recipient is not eligible to be nominated again for a period of five years unless the recipient becomes associated with a new or different team.



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- e. Nomination is accomplished by a team preparing and submitting an essay (500 words max) that describes the manner in which the nominee has impacted or influenced a MAR team. The essay should include the following information:
 - 1. General information about the nominee and their involvement with *FIRST*.
 - 2. A description of how the nominee has inspired the team or individuals on a team.
 - 3. Supporting information that will assist the selection process with an understanding of how the candidate individual has engaged with a *FIRST* team, why this individual has been an inspirational stand out, and a description of how this individual embraces the values of *FIRST*.
 - f. Nomination essays will be accepted at Pit Admin until the beginning of opening ceremonies for the event.
 - g. Nominations will be evaluated by a local *honored guest evaluator* (Evaluator). Selection will be based on the content of the essay only (no interview). The Evaluator will not be an FRC judge or have any other official role at the event.
 - h. Individuals who are nominated will not be advised by *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic that a nomination was submitted on their behalf. The team who nominates an individual may, at their sole discretion, advise the nominee that a submission was made on their behalf.
 - i. The recipient of the Don Bowers Inspiration Award will be honored during a ceremony immediately preceding the Alliance Selection process.

3.0 – Process Timeline

- a. As soon as Pit Admin is operational (Day 0), an announcement will be made that submissions are being accepted. Reminder announcements may be made by Pit Admin during Day 0 and the morning of Day 1.
- b. Pit Admin will accept submissions up to the beginning of Opening Ceremony (Day 1).
- c. The Evaluator will review and score submissions using the award rubric during Day 1. A decision should be reached by close of pits on Day 1.
- d. Morning of Day 2, Evaluator will finish script (if not complete on Day 1). Deliver recipient name and script to the Event Manager not later than 9am on Day 2.
- e. The Evaluator and any previous DBI Award winners will be invited to participate in the award ceremony prior to the Alliance Selection event.
- f. Day after event - Post name of recipient on *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic website.



Donald Bowers Inspiration Award Submission Cover Sheet

Each team attending a *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic District Event may submit one individual for consideration at each district event who has impacted and inspired their team. The candidate may be a mentor, volunteer, parent, or sponsor. The 500 word (maximum) essays will be collected at pit admin. **The deadline for submission is the start of opening ceremonies.** Please affix this cover sheet to your submission.

Team Number _____

Name of Nomination _____

Name of Student Submitting Nomination _____